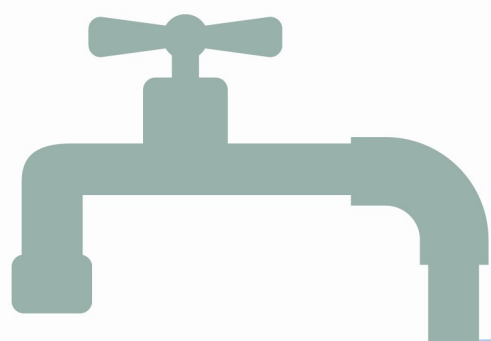


Ensuring Access to BASIC SANITATION for Indian Country



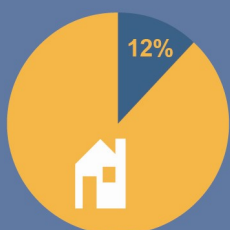
EPA supports tribal communities in improving wastewater infrastructure.

THE GROWING NEED



The American Indian and Alaska Native (tribal) population increased **8.4%** more than the national average.¹

~400,000 tribal homes in the U.S.



12% of these homes lack access to safe drinking water and/or wastewater facilities.²

WHY ARE THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE POPULATIONS UNIQUE?

- A higher proportion of tribal communities use water for subsistence living, traditions, and worship
- Often very remote and rural
- Each Federally recognized tribe is a unique sovereign nation³

THE DANGER OF DISEASE

Exposure to untreated wastewater can increase occurrences of:

- Gastrointestinal illnesses such as hepatitis A, gastroenteritis, and giardiasis (giardia)
- Respiratory illnesses such as pneumonia
- Skin diseases such as staph infections



Raw sewage often contains:



Parasites, viruses, and bacteria



Pharmaceuticals



Chemical toxins, including metals and pesticides

What does lack of access to wastewater service mean?



Broken sewer lines



Children play in septic overflow

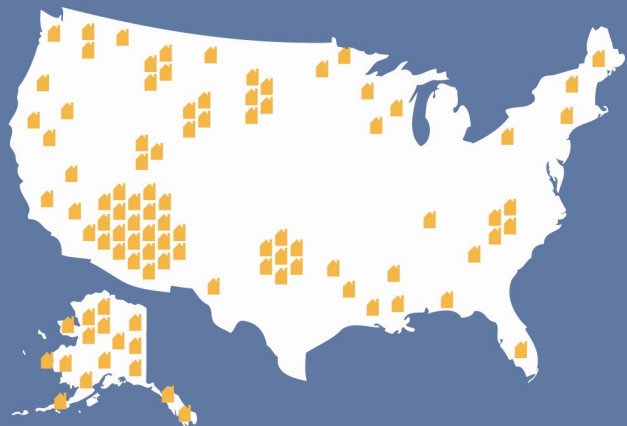


Human waste carried in five-gallon buckets



Pipes carry wastewater directly into streams and waterways, without treatment

Tribal community locations across the U.S.



To provide adequate wastewater service to the tribal population, over **\$669 million** is needed.⁴



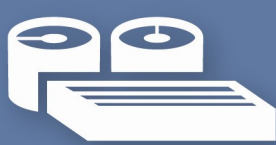
MAKING PROGRESS, DROP BY DROP

EPA's Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA) Program funding is dedicated to the planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment systems for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Types of projects typically carried out include:⁵



Septic Tanks/ Drain Fields

32.3% of total projects



Wastewater Treatment Plants

24% of total projects



Lagoons

21.9% of total projects



Lift Stations

9.4% of total projects



Piping Projects

8.3% of total projects



Other (e.g. grinder pumps, aerators)

4% of total projects

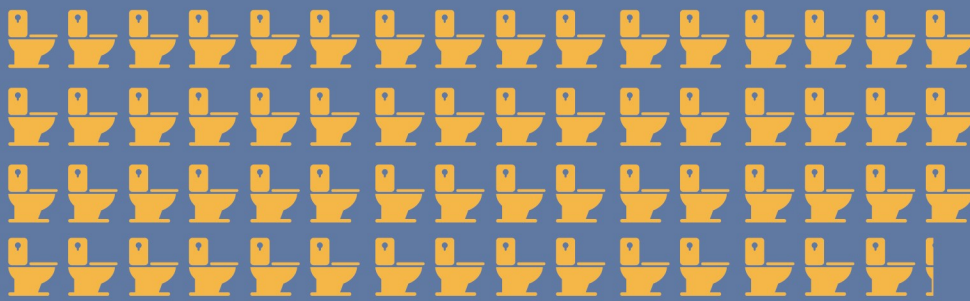
From 2003

→ 2013

869 Projects



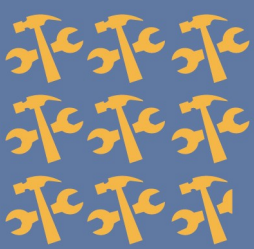
have been funded through CWISA.



EPA provided **69,783 tribal homes** with access to basic wastewater sanitation, in coordination with other federal partners.

In FY 2013, CWISA awarded roughly **\$27.5 million** for wastewater treatment construction projects in tribal communities.

\$27.5 =



77 Projects



13,658 tribal homes to be served and

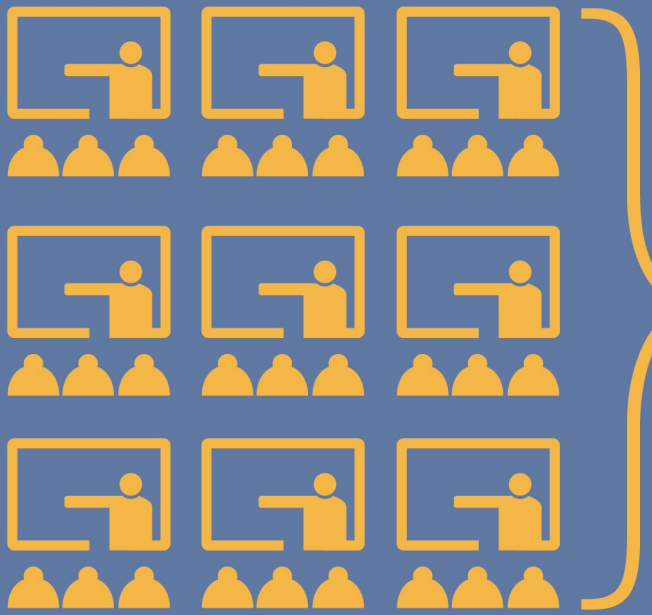
46% to provide first-time access to safe wastewater services.



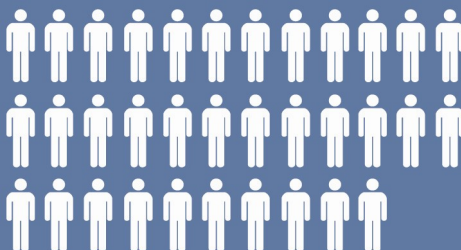
WHEN POSSIBLE, CWISA-FUNDED PROJECTS HIRE LOCAL RESIDENTS

to assist with building wastewater infrastructure that will serve their community.

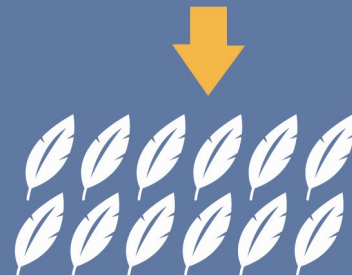
As progress is made, challenges are being addressed **through in-person and online training.**



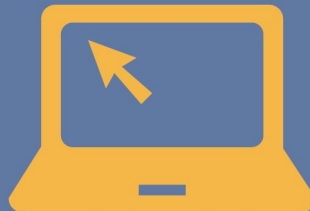
9 in-person water and wastewater infrastructure operation and maintenance (O&M) workshops



The workshops reached **344 people**



Representing over **120 tribes.**



Published online O&M training modules



The Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) promotes access to sustainable safe drinking water and basic sanitation in tribal communities by connecting tribes with infrastructure and resources. The task force aims to maximize these federal investments by improving the capacity of tribes to perform operations and maintenance of their facilities.

The ITF is a multi-agency initiative led by EPA and composed of:

- Indian Health Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

More ITF information at: www.epa.gov/tp/trprograms/infra-water.htm.

THE ONGOING WORK



In 2000, the U.S. agreed to support the United Nations Millennium Development Goal to reduce the number of homes without access to water and basic sanitation **by 50% by the year 2015.**



EPA and other federal agencies aim to provide **an additional 14,513 American Indian and Alaskan Native homes** with access to basic sanitation by 2015.

For more information on CWISA, visit www.epa.gov/cwisa.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau

² Indian Health Service Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System (IHS-STARS)

³ Federal Register, Volume 78, Number 87, "Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs"

⁴ IHS-STARS

⁵ Based on the 96 CWISA projects funded in 2009 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

⁶ Based on EPA's 2003 baseline



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

EPA-810-F-13-001
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